

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An annotation system that associates annotations with at least one object, the annotation system comprising:

a search circuit that locates the at least one object to be annotated; and

5 an annotation device, the annotation device comprising:

an input device that receives at least one annotation;

an annotation linking circuit that establishes a link associating the at least one annotation with at least one portion of the object;

10 a database that stores an object identifier, the at least one annotation and the link; and

a synchronize circuit that associates the at least one annotation and the link with the object identifier, wherein the object identifier corresponds to the at least one object, and a viewing medium of the at least one object is distinct from the annotation device.

15 2. The system of claim 1, wherein the annotation linking circuit establishes the link to the at least one portion based on at least one of a graphical technique and a textual technique.

3. The system of claim 2, wherein the graphical technique associates the at least one annotation with at least one portion of the at least one object based on selection of at least one portion of a graphical icon that is a visual surrogate of the at least one object.

4. The system of claim 2, wherein the textual technique comprises associating the at least one annotation and at least one of a word, phrase or a portion of text.

25 5. The system of claim 4, wherein the textual technique is based on a phrase completion technique.

6. The system of claim 1, wherein the search circuit is located in at least one of the annotation device, a personal computer and a networked search engine.

7. The system of claim 1, wherein the search circuit receives at least one of the object identifier and one or more key words corresponding to the object to be annotated.

8. The system of claim 1, further comprising an annotation database that stores the at least one annotation and the object identifier for the at least one object.

9. The system of claim 8, wherein the annotation database is located on a distributed network.

10. The system of claim 8, wherein the annotation database stores at least one annotation previously associated with the at least one object.

5 11. The system of claim 1, wherein the at least one object is at least one of a media type object, a device type object, a location type object and a digital document.

12. The system of claim 1, wherein the annotation device is a portable device.

10 13. The system of claim 1, wherein the object identifier is collocated with the at least one object.

14. A method for associating annotations with at least one object comprising:

15 searching for the at least one object to annotate;  
obtaining an object identifier for the at least one object;  
associating at least one annotation with at least one portion of the object;

20 associating the at least one annotation with the at least one object identifier, wherein a viewing medium of the at least one object is distinct from an annotation medium.

15. The method of claim 14, wherein associating at least one annotation with at least one portion of the object is based on at least one of a graphical technique and a textual technique.

25 16. The method of claim 15, wherein the graphical technique associates the at least one annotation with at least one portion of the at least one object based on selection of at least one portion of a graphical icon that is a visual surrogate of the at least one object.

30 17. The method of claim 15, wherein the textual technique comprises associating the at least one annotation and at least one of a word, phrase or a portion of text.

18. The method of claim 17, wherein the textual technique is based on a phrase completion technique.

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19. The method of claim 14, further comprising associating the object identifier and the at least one object.

20. The method of claim 14, further comprising retrieving supplemental information associated with the at least one object.

5 21. The method of claim 14, further comprising developing a digital surrogate of the at least one object.

22. The method of claim 14, further comprising retrieving at least one previous annotation associated with the at least one object.

10 23. The method of claim 22, further comprising annotating at least one of the at least one previous annotation.

24. The method of claim 14, wherein searching for the at least one object comprises:

entering at least one of a description of the object and the object identifier; and

15 searching at least one of a networked search engine, a personal computer and a distributed network.

25. The method of claim 14, wherein the at least one object is at least one of a media type object, a device type object, a location type object and a digital document.

20 26. An information storage media for associating annotations with at least one object comprising:

information that searches for the at least one object to annotate;

information that obtains an object identifier for the at least one object;

25 information that associates at least one annotation with at least one portion of the object; and

information that associates at least one annotation with the at least one object identifier, wherein a viewing medium of the at least one object is distinct from an annotation medium.

30 27. The information storage media of claim 26 wherein associating at least one annotation with at least one portion of the object is based on at least one of a graphical technique and a textual technique.

28. The information storage media of claim 26, wherein the graphical technique associates the at least one annotation with at least one portion of the at least

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one object based on selection of at least one portion of a graphical icon that is a visual surrogate of the at least one object.

5           29.     The information storage media of claim 26, wherein the textual technique comprises associating the at least one annotation and at least one of a word, phrase or a portion of text.

          30.     The information storage media of claim 29, wherein the textual technique is based on a phrase completion technique.

          31.     The information storage media of claim 26, further comprising information that associates the object identifier and the at least one object.

10           32.     The information storage media of claim 26, further comprising information that retrieves supplemental information associated with the at least one object.

          33.     The information storage media of claim 26, further comprising information that develops a digital surrogate of the at least one object.

15           34.     The information storage media of claim 26, further comprising information that retrieves at least one previous annotation associated with the at least one object.

          35.     The information storage media of claim 34, further comprising information that annotates at least one of the at least one previous annotation.

20           36.     The information storage media of claim 26, wherein searching for the at least one object comprises:

                  information that specifies at least one of a description of the object and the object identifier; and

                  information that searches at least one of a networked search engine, a personal computer and a distributed network.

25           37.     The information storage media of claim 26, wherein the at least one object is at least one of a media type object, a device type object, a location type object and a digital document.